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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

First Principles.

The speech of the Hon. NELSON DINGLEY on the Teller resolution has been printed in the Congressional Record. It touches, perhaps, the highest level of statesmanship ever reached by this conscientious, painstaking, industrious legislator, whose long and distinguished services to his party and his country have brought him to the leadership of the majority in the House.

Mr. DINGLEY's speech last Monday answers back to the President's speech of the week before at the banquet of the Manufacturers' Association as signal fire answers to signal fire:

"No one denies that this or any other nation has the power to pay in full or in part or none of its obligations, in gold, or silver, or paper, or copper ording to its pleasure. Payment cannot be enced against a sovereign nation. Its obligations seasured by its own sense of honor and good faith. But even if this sense of honor is at any time blunted, as was Surrock's, by dwelling en a narrow view of the letter rather than the spirit of the obligation, the intelligent selfishness of a nation, which is to live not simply for a generation, but for centuries, ought to lead itand wherever a nation is wisely governed, does lead it-to so scrupulously maintain its pledges in both | friends few or many." letter and spirit as to preserve its credit untarnished. and thereby not only make it possible to borrow at the lowest rate of interest, but also to make it easy to obtain loans in exigencies, which are sure, sooner or later, to come to every nation.

"A nation's honor and credit, I may say to gentlemen on the other side who applauded so tubilantly when the pending resolution was brought into this Hall, are among its most priceless possessions-aye, its title deed to permanence and prosperity."

These are first principles, but they cannot be uttered too frequently or too forcibly. In the face of the concentrating enemies of the National Honor-a thing to be measured by no code of technicalities, and to be preserved by no subterfuges of sophistry-the Republican party, under the lead of such men as WILLIAM MCKINLEY and THOMAS B. REED and NELSON DINGLEY, is taking its position more and more resolutely upon a rock that is impregnable.

The Lincoln Forgery Again.

We are informed by our esteemed con temporary, the Harrisonburg Spirit of the Valley, that the following Clevelandesque lament is now being "made to do duty in the Virginia free-silver press" as an utterance of ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S in 1865:

ARE LINCOLN A PROPHET.

"It has been indeed a trying hour for the republic but I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of our country. As a result of the war corporation have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power will en-deavor to prolong its reign by working on the pre-judices of the people till all wealth is aggregated in s few hands, and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxious for the safety of my counthan ever before, even in the midst of war."

No wonder the Spirit of the Valley remarks that "it does not have the genuine ring and that it must be spurious."

This forgery, for it is a forgery, invented for the Presidential campaign of 1896, was a brazen attempt to make one of the broadest-minded political philosophers and democrats the country has ever known into a frothy demagogue like the Boy Orator, then the Populist candidate. In THE SUN of Oct. 3 of 1896 is found the reply of Mr. JOHN G. NICOLAY, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, to a member of the Republican National Committee who had submitted the document to him for comment:

"This alleged quotation from Mr. Lincoln is a broad and unblushing forgery. The great President never said it or wrote it, and never said or wrote anything that, by the utmost license, could be distorted to resemble it."

Mr. Nicolay's statement stands beyond the possibility of populistic contradiction. The Virginia free-silver press ought to be ashamed of itself.

Congress and Coast Defence.

The debate which has been going on in the House this week shows, as might have been expected, a very general desire to carry on steadily the work of seaboard defence. The main question has been as to Looking over the record of the last seven

ending June 30, 1892, were, if we have the year, \$2,734,276; for the next, \$2,210,055; for the next, \$2,427,004; for the next, \$1,-904,558; then, for the year ending with last June, \$7,377,888, while for the current fiscal year they reach the very high figures of \$9,517,141. The appropriation proposed for the year to come by the House Committee in the pending bill was \$4,144,912.

The policy of economy in Government expenditure ought not to be allowed to curtail in any way the current rate of progress on seacoast protection. Retrenchment may be a matter of wisdom and one of necessity at this time, but it should be exercised on some other branches of expenditure than

those connected with the country's defence. The land defences consist of guns and mortars, mounted in forts and served by artillerymen. The question of the number of men required does not come up in the present bill, while that of the ammunition, for a given number of rounds, is determined by the number of pieces to be mounted by the end of the fiscal year, and in full. The submarine adjuncts are already fully cared for in the bill. The three great elements remaining, then, are the guns, the carriages, and the emplacements. It happens, through an improper system of | the valley of the Mississippi. management, that these three elements have not gone forward as nearly together as they ought to have gone. The supply of guns is far ahead of the carriages, and the latter, if we do not mistake, are ahead of

the emplacements. It therefore seems clear that the work of the Engineer Corps during the last eighteen

\$5,000,000 with which to construct batteries for the guns and mortars during the coming year. The House Committee gave it only \$1,000,000.

The carriages, in like manner, are urgently required. The Ordnance Department has put private as well as public resources at work on them, and it only remains to to see how much, on the average, it is paying out for this purpose, to know what it should have at command for the future. As for heavy guns and their forgings, these, as has been said, are far in advance of the carriages and emplacements; yet it is wise to keep at work the existing Government factory at Watervliet to its routine capacity, without having any part of it shut down for lack of money.

In all these matters Congress is, of course to have the benefit of the balances which will be carried over into the next fiscal year. But the most important thing is not to diminish the present rate of progress in providing coast defences.

The Low Movement Again.

What is noticeable about the Anti-Har mony statement put forth by the Committee of Fifty-three is that it copies closely the anti-harmony crusade formulated and led to a Bryanistic triumph last November by Mr. SETH Low. It begins with the same long-distance fire of accusations to shake the public confidence in the Republican organization, and then the forward movement starts in the same spirit of supreme self-satisfaction and unalterable determination never to listen to political reason:

"We have not gone into this movement lightly; we have gone into it advisedly and after mature deliberation," say the Fifty-"I realize the solemnity of the call made

upon me." said Mr. Low at Northeast Harbor, "and my decision has been reached not lightly or thoughtlessly, but soberly and in the fear of Gop." Again the Fifty-three: "We have gone

into it with the determination to remain." "I shall stand," said Mr. Low, "be my

"We cannot in any way whatsoever confer with the machine or have anything to do with it," say the Fifty-three. "No conference with the Republicans.

said, in effect, the Citizens' Union. Running along thus on parallel tracks the marplots of November, 1897, and their successors in February, 1898, set out with one and the same aim, namely, to strike down the political organization which is founded upon the St. Louis gold-standard platform, and which, in respect to the Empire State, holds that platform's fate locked inseparably with its own.

Still these two fanatically selfish undertakings differ, in that the Low movement occurred at a time which determined the political complexion of the city of New York, while the Fifty-three are operating in a year for electing a House of Representatives, the lower branch of Congress.

National events, such as the House's defeat of the Teller resolution, have no interest for the remnant of the Citizens' Union known as the Fifty-three. They are absorbed in the far grander Platt question, and in the changing of a primary law which they have used and enjoyed for many years without complaint.

At such a crisis no man who desires to save his country and himself from the ruinous consequences of repudiation will give even a shadow of encouragement to any effort to divide the Republican party and perpetuate its discords, whatever the pretexts on which it is put forth. He would be less treacherous if he went over to the Bryanite camp openly and definitely. Every citizen must be on the one side or the other. By encouraging Republican unity alone can he demonstrate his opposition to the Democratic forces of repudiation against which the Republican party is the solitary bulwark of salvation.

"Bull-Run" Russell on Our War.

It will be remembered that Mr. WILLIAM HOWARD RUSSELL was commissioned by the London Times to act as the special cor respondent of that paper in the United States at the time of the rupture between the Southern States and the rest of the Union. He, as Sir WILLIAM HOWARD Russell, has now undertaken to contribute his Recollections of the Civil War to the North American Review, and the first installment of them appears in the Febru-

ary number. The most striking feature of these reminiscences is the testimony they bear to the fact that the outbreak of actual war between the two sections of the Union took Northern men by surprise. Some Northern Democrats thought that the Southern States had a right to secede, while Republicans, who denied the existence of that right, were convinced that an at tempt to exercise it would be folled without a resort to hostilities. Soon after arriving in New York the Times correspondent found, he tells us, that men like Governor SEYMOUR asserted that the Government would not be justifled how much money should be devoted to this in relieving Fort Sumter by force. They also argued that, although Fort Sumter was a national fortress, the State of South years, the appropriations for the fiscal year | Carolina, having seceded, was entitled to starve out the garrison if it did not surcorrect figures, \$3.774,803; for the next | render. There was no power, they said, given to the Government by the Constitution to prevent secession.

On reaching Washington the correspond ent discovered that Mr. SEWARD treated secession lightly. "Why," said Mr. Lin-coln's Secretary of State, "I and all my brothers and sisters seceded in early life. But we all returned home. So will the Southern States. The masses there are ignorant; they think they can rule the North first and the world after. The style of life there is that which prevailed in New York a hundred years ago." Mr. SEWARD added: "The rumor that orders have been given to evac uate Fort Sumter is false. It belongs to the Union, not to South Carolina." Senator SUMNER, on his part, broke out with an emphatic "Never!" when Mr. RUSSELL spoke of the possibilities of armed conflict between the seceding States and the Government. "Never! They are too crafty! Bullies! Braggarts! They would be assassins, some of them, if they dared, but fair that quantity should of course be provided | fight-never!" At the Smithsonian Institution the correspondent conversed with Prof. HENRY and Prof. BAIRD. The former treated slavery as a geological question; the latter connected it with climate and

By Mr. SEWARD the correspondent was introduced to the President, from whom he received the unusual honor of an invitation to the first dinner given to the members of the Cabinet. The distinction rather troubled Mr. Russell, but he was reassured by SAM WARD, who told him: "You will find them ordinary people, good, honest months should be the basis for the appro-priations now given to it. It saked for man, and worth talking to. He won't

praise all his colleagues. Campuon is as cute as any Yankee, alive or dead. SMITH & Co. are just respectable people." The impression made upon Mr. Russell by the President is thus described: "I have never seen any likeness which conveyed the melancholy, tender expres-sion of Mr. Lincoln's eyes; they were soft, full and bright; all the rest of the large-featured, dark-skinned, deeply seamed face was almost morose in the cast of the square jaws, firm mouth, and hollow checks. Tall, over 6 feet certainly, looselimbed, with long arms and large, flapping hands, dressed in a shining, new, black cloth suit, he balanced himself uneasily on his feet. As he took a step to reach me with outstretched hand, there came a most pleasant expression and a kindly, honest ook into his eyes. 'You are welcome.' What a squeeze that was! My finger tingled afterward."

Among the other eminent Americans with whom the Times correspondent dined during his first visit to Washington was Gen. Scott, who, characteristically, was warming some bottles of claret when his guest arrived. Gen. Scorr mentioned that he had received a number of letters from the Marquis of Tweeddale about the operations to be undertaken in the event of a war with the South, and that his lordship particularly dwelt upon the importance of getting command of the Mississippi. Coming away from the dinner, Secretary SEWARD told Mr. RUSSELL that Gen. Scorr aimed at being a poet as well as a soldier, and, in a letter to the National Intelligencer, he had quoted PALEY and SHAKESPEARE to show that President BUCHANAN should have fortifled the United States ports. "But," idded the Secretary, "he was a grand old fellow in the field. He is the only General I know of whose orders of the day in the morning would serve in the afternoon as records of work done."

On the evening of April 12, 1861, Mr. RUSSELL left Washington for Charleston in order to ascertain the state of opinion in the South. Everywhere along his route through Virginia and North Carolina the enthusiasm for JEFF DAVIS was unbounded. but the present installment of the Recolections ends at Wilmington, where the writer was expecting a visit from a vigilance committee.

The historical value of these notes is rather heightened than lessened by the fact that Mr. Russell came to this country unprepared to sympathize with the North. Had he been an Abolitionist, or inclined to favor the abolition of slavery, he would not have been selected for his mission by Mr. DELANE, then the editor of the Times, who was strongly inclined to favor the South. Mr. BANCROFT DAVIS, the regular correspondent of that paper at New York, was an uncompromising opponent of slavery, and, for that very reason, a special correspondent of different prepossessions was desired. Mr. DELANE, bowever, had no more belief that a serious conflict was impending than had CHARLES SUM-NER, for, in his letter of instructions to Mr. Russell, he said: "The South threatens to secede, but that has been held up as a menace for a long time, and the quar rel will be patched up; for the North cannot live without the South, and lives, indeed, a good deal on and by it." That is to say, the editor of the Times imagined, as so many did, that Cotton was king.

The Question of Long Engagements. Our remarks, the other day, in disapproval of long engagements of marriage have brought out this question from a young man in Brooklyn:

"To the Editor of The Sus-Sir: A young man is in love with a young lady, but his parents are rather opposed to his having anything to do with her. The roung lady in question reciprocates his feeling. He being in the employ of his father, is somewhat de-pendent on him. Now, here comes the question of ong engagements and the so-called mor he has no definite position at hand which will enable him to keep a wife, and cannot tell when he will get it. Should they not have some understandthe matter? It seems very clear that if he were to stand up for his right there would be a row, and he would be apt to lose his job."

The great body of young people to the contrary, notwithstanding, it may fairly be assumed that when parents object to the marriage engagements of their children they have good reason on their side. They have the advantage over the young people that they can look at the matter coolly, while the judgment of the others is sacrificed to mere sentiment and perhaps replaced by sheer illusion. Very likely, however, our young friend's father would have no objection to the indefinite engagement suggested, feeling that in all probability it would come to nothing; but THE SUN'S opposition to such a conditional engagement was that usually the man alone profits by it, and we were speaking in the girl's interest more particu-The young man may change his mind in the course of his indefinite engagement ; our friend thinks now that no such variation would be possible for him. but it is more than possible; it is probable. He may cool off as time goes on, and the fulfilment of the promise which he is so eager to make now may become irksome to him. He is a very young man, and a few more years may change his sentimental bent completely. If circumstances favored his marrying the girl forthwith, the union would not only be made certain, but the chances are also that it would turn out happily, for, on the whole, early marriages before character has hardened and habits have become fixed are most likely to be successful matrimonial ventures. But in a long engagement, extending over years, there is no such opportunity for the two to be moulded together as actual matrimony affords, and, apart, the older they grow the less plastic they become. When the changed circumstances enabling our young friend to take a wife shall come to pass he may find that they have brought with them a change in his disposition bringing him nearer to that view of the sort of wife he ought to have against which he now rebels in his father. Meantime what is to become of the girl

In her there may have been no change of feeling. She may have felt herself to be as much bound to him as if she had married him, taking the betrothal as a very serious matter, as it should be taken always, and not as an engagement to be broken whenever whim or interest or fickle fancy shall prompt the rupture.

Our Brooklyn inquirer cannot marry the girl now because he is unable to support a wife, and his father, on whom he is dependent, is unfavorable to the match. He wants her, therefore, to wait until some indefinite time in the future, each pledging fidelity to the other. That is not strictly an engagement of marriage; it is simply a promise of each to marry the other if either shall marry at all, though actually it will mean that if both remain of the same mind they will marry if an opportune time comes.

Such an "understanding" may be well enough; but it is of little use as sentimental security for the girl. Whatever the "understanding," it cannot be strong enough to hold either if either gets tired of it.

Prussia's War on Our Fruits.

If the exclusion of American pork had not made us familiar with Germany's peremptory methods, the prevention of thousands of barrels of American apples from being unloaded at Hamburg, and also of trains full of fruit from crossing the Prus sian frontier at Emmerich, might bave aroused great astonishment here. Fortunately, however, our apple exports for the season have largely gone, and, besides, our trade with Germany in this fruit is a very small fraction of our exports to Europe, Great Britain being our chief market. Moreover, yesterday the Bundesrath, according to the despatches, modified the sweeping Government prohibition as to fresh fruit, so that "only that containing the schildlaus or San José scale" is barred. The order of exclusion is thus seen to

have been based on the allegation that our apples contained parasites or vermin that might spread to the German orchards. The right of a nation to adopt sanitary restriction upon its imports is unquestionable, and was not disputed by us in the case of the pork. But, on the other hand, we may demand to know the evidence for exclusion. because, under our treaty with Germany American imports are expressly to be ad mitted on the footing of the like imports of other nations. The lack, also, of pre vious notice of the exclusion to our Am bassador at Berlin seems discourteous, al though that may have been an oversight

the exclusion itself. The first need, then, is to know the facts. The resolution of Mr. MAGUIRE of California, calling for the diplomatic correspond ence on this matter between our Government and Prussia, was the right step to start with.

and, at all events, is less important than

If Senator Thurston will vote for the annexation of Hawaii and a timely and case settlement of a question that otherwise in the future may grow costly, difficult, not to say disturbing, he will do a far greater public service than warning the Republicans that they may lose the next House of Representatives.

We congratulate the city of Cordova Alabama, upon the starting up of the Indian Head mills with 10,000 looms, 50,000 spindles. and employment for 1,000 laborers. Capital is flowing in a steadily growing stream into the South, to embrace its great opportunities for profitable use. It flows because the commercial nind believes firmly that the monetary standard of the country will not be tampered with. When the Populist effort at repudiation is finally squelched and abandoned, industrial enwill feel new life and the South's share of benefits from it will be far greater than it

We observe that the leaders of the move ment to disorganize the Republican party in this city continue to receive the hearty support of all the Mugwump papers, and naturally are patted on the back encouragingly by the newspaper organs of the Bryanized Democracy throughout the State.

Boston, shut out from civilization for some hours, covered up in the snow, her nose red, her goloshes lost in the drifts, has thrilled with unusual excitement this week. May these troubles bring to her a mind willing to acknowledge and repent a grave error. The old New England theology would have seen in this great destructive storm and wind a visitation, a material punishment for sin. The modern may be pardoned if, without any irreverence toward Boston or anybody or anything else, they cannot help hoping that Boswas no more shut out from civilization when the telegraph wires tumbled down than she is and must be as long as her sons follow the abominable habit, noticed regretfully by our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Journal, of wearing Tuxedo coats on formal occasions. Some of the members of the Ancient and Honor able Artillery Company caused great alarm in England, during their memorable visit to that country, by wearing brown derby hats with ng between them and settle how they will deal with | frock coats at garden parties. But what shall | be said of the "Bostonians of fair name and liberal education" who wear Tuxedo coats on formal occasions ?

A bill providing for two-cent railroad fares is before the Ohio Legislature. Much to the surprise of the professional corporation cursers the railroad employees, who know that a reduction of fares means a reduction of their wages, are opposing the bill vigorously. At a hearing before the Senate Committee on Railroads and Telegraphs, speeches against the bill were made by representatives of the Order of Railway Conductors, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and of the Brotherhood o Locomotive Firemen. The howlers against corporations must find some means of hurting the railroads without hurting the persons who work

The Department of Agriculture is about to give serious thought to tobacco culture in the South. The industrious and enthusiastic Secretary is going to study tobacco in the Carolinas and Florids, and it is said that a sort of Government tobacco farm may be hoped for if all goes well with his investigations. Every body must admit that it is generous for the Government to master tobacco culture and to teach it to a grateful people. May we not hope that in the course of time the Government will inform the grateful people what are the best cigars and what is the best smoking tobaccol A Bureau of Experimental Cigar and Tobacco Smoking would be a valuable addition to the department. Some Congressmen who are in the habit of keep-ing one brand of cigars for their constituents and smoking another one themselves would have to give up the nefarious practice if a sci entific knowledge of tobacco should be diffused among the people.

BENTON McMillin of Tennessee feels to-day s though he had lived in vain.—Hartford Times.

BENTON McMILLIN of Tennessee is incapable feeling that he has lived in vain. He is sure that without his efforts and constant persona supervision the country would sink. It is true that he pities the Tennessee Legislature for its failure to elect him Senator. He pities the Senate because its stature is not to be enlarged, as he knows that he could have enlarged it. But he remains full of cheering thoughts. He can and will continue to be one of the thirteen Democratic leaders of the House of Representtives He can and will dispute with JOE BAILEY the intellectual throne.

A special committee of the Maryland Legislature and a special committee of the Vir ginia Legislature are to meet to-morrow to con sider oyster dredging and crabbing in the Potomac. Under an agreement made in 1785 the itizens of the two States enjoy the right of fishing in that river. At that time the shad and the herring were lords of the Potomac waters, and the "crabbing" and "oystering" industries had not arisen. The Marylanders now assert that the word "fishing" does not include "oystering" and "crabbing." They declare that "scientists to whom the question been submitted agree that oysters and crabs are not fish, having neither ver cebrae nor red blood." Certainly, it is unjust to the cyster, a poing of so many admirable char cteristics, to classify him among fish, who, after all is said that can be said in their favor, remain fishy. Speaking from a non-scientific point of view, ostreophilists might prefer to call the

oyster a bird of an eccentric but rich organizaion, voiceless but juley. Without being human in the narrow sense, he possesses two qualities which many human beings lack. He is good and he is not loquacious. And there are plenty of men who have neither vertebres nor red

The Hon, FRED DUBOIS of Idaho, Chairman of the Silver Republican Executive Committee, is coming East for the purpose of consulting with other silver chiefs and "uniting all silver forces." By way of prelude to the barmonizing work which he has undertaken, he asserts that the vote in the Senate for the Teller resolution "has convinced the silver advocates that with a close union of the silver forces victory in 1898 and 1900 is certain," advocates are easily convinced. Men who believe in the 16 to 1 romance are able to believe anything that is tolerably incredible.

NATIONAL DEFENCE.

Suggestion of a Plan for Extending the Educa tional Advantages of West Point. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Will you

permit a suggestion apropos of the article in your Sunday's issue on "National Defence," The plan therein discussed for providing competent officers to drill and command large bodies of men in case of emergency is most in-teresting, and would doubless prove efficient, though the expense is an objection. It is sub-mitted, however, that an adaptation of the German "freiwilliger" system to our national Military Academy would be still more efficient, could it be carried out, and would cost the taxpayer nothing.

It is probably not necessary to explain that the "freiwilliger" system is an arrangement which offers certain advantages to young men who serve in the German Army at their own expense over those who serve at the expense of he Covernment.

If, in addition to those cadets who are appointed, who are paid by the Government, and are, therefore, bound to serve in the army a certain number of years, there should be admitted to West Point others who, in consideration of paying for their maintenance and tuition, as in other schools, should be exempt from that obligation, and should receive on graduation a di-ploma, or perhaps a degree of, say, military engineer, there would in a few years be available for any such emergency as that contem plated a considerable number of young men who had received the most thorough possible military education, and with it the very valuable eachet of West Point.

This last is a most important consideration. It would not only inspire the men over whom those officers were placed with a confidence

those officers were placed with a confidence scarcely possible otherwise, but it would put themselves on a footing of equality with the "regulars" not otherwise possible at all.

There are thousands of parents who would be glad to give their sons a West Point education, but who have not the political influence necessary under the present system. Very many of these would willingly pay to the Government the sum necessary to recoup it for the necessary academic expenses it so they might attain their end.

the sum necessary to recoup it for the necessary neademic expenses it so they might attain their end.

The facilities at "the Point" could readily be increased so as to accommodate as large a student roil as is possessed by any of the great educational institutions of the country; and no fear that it would not be filled, for who ever knew a boy who didn't want to go to West Point!

This privilege should be restricted to citizens of the United States, unless in very exceptional instances, and there should be absolutely no difference between the cadets, either in name or in treatment. All alike would be cadets in the United States military service, and equally subject in all respects to the rules and regulations thereof. Only at graduation would there be a difference, for while one would be ordered on the duty to which he had been assigned, if any, the other would receive an honorable discharge and his diploma or degree. All, of course, would not graduate, but even those who failed would have received a training very valuable in the contemplated emergency. At the very least they would be good drill masters.

There would, of course, be objections to such an arrangement. The very suggestion will be a shock to some old West Pointers. It is believed, however, that on examination these objections will prove to be as nothing in comparison with the advantages which may confidently be expected, and which it is not easy to overestimate.

Any sentiment of rivalry which might arise at first between the two kinds of cadets would disappear in time, certainly with the graduation of the last class of exclusively appointed cadets, and probably sooner.

The fact that no other national Government has taken such a sten is agreed and region.

and probably sooner.

The fact that no other national Government has taken such a step is surely no reason in W. GARNERVILLE, N. Y., Feb. 1.

DREYFUS.

Further News of the Great Mystery. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As an in

lefatigable student of the Dreyfus case, I submit the following contribution to it for the benefit of my colleagues in the United States. Here is a letter, addressed to Zola, signed by ten maires and two counsellors of the Department of Ain, and published in the Nouvelliste de

Lyon: You have insulted us by sending to us your sickly lucubrations. We indignantly protest against your bominable work, which aims at the destruction of the respect which we owe to the army and to the nation. Sir, you are laboring in the interest of the

Triplice. You are not a Frenchman.

In that feigned emotion which is attached to hypocritical mercy, you dare to ask France to outrage the commanders of her army. Rest assured that your appeal has produced profound disgust and that it is ered with all the contempt which it merits. It is by the cry of " Five Parmée?" that we respond to your infamy.

Accept, Monsleur, the assurance of our most profound contempt.

found contempt.

Here follows the rather long list of names, Judging by the little skirmishing before the trial, M. Zola seems to be in a bad box. It will be remembered that the statements of Dreyfus to Capt. Lebrun-Renaud, which amounted practically to a confession of guilt, were furiously denied by the friends of the prisoner. In answer to a letter from Mme. Dreyfus the following note was sent to her by the ex-War Minister, G. Cavaignac:

Madame: You deny the existence of the declara-tions of Capt. Lebrun-Renaud and of the written tentimony proving that these declarations were made I am obliged to tell you that you are mistaken. The written testimony is in the hands of the Minister of War. I beg you, madame, to accept the assurance,

In the present aspect of the case conviction seems probable. The existence of the Preyfug syndicate may be satisfactorily proved; but from that to the conclusion that the Jew should suffer for the work of a handful of ras should suffer for the work of a handful of rus-cals, there is an enormous distance, as the map) letter to Paul de Cassagnac from a Jewish officer in the French Army clearly shows. Let the race that is without rascals cast the first stone at them.

RICHMOND.

In There a Future Life !

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The letter of an agnostic in THE SUN of Jan. 30 on churchgoing prompts me to ask what are the deas of agnostics concerning a future state ! It is to my mind the only "reason to be" of a religion. I am what might be termed a "groper;" that

s, a churchgoer carnest and attentive, whose belief in a heaven or after existence of the soul is more of a hope than a faith. I am looking for

is more of a hope than a faith. I am looking for help, an assurance of the divine origin and end of all things. I would like to know if an agnostic who has lost a loved one can reconcile himself to the thought that all is, indeed, over for the dear departed?

In fact, everyone knows what an agnostic does not believe. Is life worth living to him if everything ends here; what are his theories, if he has any, as to how we got here, even in the garm! We have no control over our existence. What force has, if any! I fany one can help me it will be more than a hundred gospels preached. New York, Jan. 30.

HOPE.

A Bottomless and Haunted Hole. From the Auburn (Ku.) News.

One of the places in our neighboohood which s shunned alike by saint and sinner is the old spring near our town, in Logan county, known as the blue hole. Though legendary, the story I shall relate of this spring is true, for it has been corroborated by the former generation to the older men of the present century. According to this story, when the Shaker village at South Union was first established by a few venturesome though hardy ploneers, a member of the sect was despaced on horeback one day to Russellville with a bag of gold to put the money in a safe in the county's capital. When the treasure bearer reached the spring he rode his horse in to give it water, but animal and rider were swallowed up, never to rise again. It is said that the Shaker's friends used as much as both feel of rope in an attempt to recover the body and coin, and never struck bottom. I myself have heard old men say they had tried to find the bottom of the spring by using hundreds of feet of cord and a lead sinker, but without success. I shall relate of this spring is true, for it has

CRITICISING THE CHARTER.

pandent Replies to Some Remarks of Commissioner Hotnban. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I observe that Mr. Holahan, who is holding one of the most lucrative positions under the city Government, that of Commissioner of Public Improvements, objected at a meeting on Wednesday to the present city charter, and used this expres

sion concerning it:

We have to-day been unable to order even so my as repairs to a disapidated lamp post, because doubt exists as to what official should incur the responsibility for the expense. Such a moss I never saw. I do not know how far the knowledge of Com-

missioner Holahan extends as to charters of

cities of the first class or other like documents. I do not know that he is an expert on the subject of charters or of legislative provisions generally, though it is a fact that when last a candidate for an elective post, as State legislator, he was de-feated by the voters of the district, and the various positions which he has held since, and he has beld a number of them, have been of an appointive character. The present city charter, which he criticises in such sweeping phrases, is the work not nerely of a commission of able men, but one of the most remarkable commissions ever appointed for a like work in this country. If there be anywhere three abler lawyers, in respect to their profound knowledge of municipal law and of the regulations which govern municipalities, than Benjamin F. Tracy, John F. Billon, and William C. De Witt, I do not know where they can be found, and assuredly it would require a man of larger knowledge, more experience, more familiarity with legislation and broader views than Mr. Holahan to discover them. Moreover, the Mayors of the three cities consolidated on Jan. I, 1898, into the Greater New York, abould have known something of the workings of their respective municipalities; nor am I making any invidious distinction, when I say it would be difficult to find anywhere a man more familiar with the workings of New York municipal departments than Thomas F. Gilroy or a man understanding those of Brooklyn municipal departments better than Slias B. Dutcher. As against a report adopted by these gentlemen and their associates on the New York Charter Commission, a report the result of most mature consideration and most discriminating care, who is Holahan, who says that he is without knowledge of the identity of the official who "should incur the responsibility for the expense "of repairs to a dilapidated lamp-post?"

Officials do not incur responsibilities for expenses under the charter of New York for repairs to lamp-posts, who is the propriet to say that Gen. Collis. the is paid, and whose duties, I hope, are of a more serious character than the repairs of lamp-posts. And while on this subject it may not be inappropriate to say that Gen. Collis upon them conspicuously the street numbers and house numbers next adjoining. Gen. Collis predecessor as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works was Holahan himself, and if during his tenure he recommen held a number of them, have been of an appointive character. The present city charter,

istration, knowledge of the fact has been successfully withheld from the general taxpaying public.

It is a good deal easier to criticise a charter as imperiect, defective, uncertain, unsatisfactory, or contradictory, than it is to comply, with the best grace possible under the circumstances, with the provisions of it, for some friction is inevitable in a case of the kind, and the municipal appointees of the city of New York would do better in the public interest, I think, by endeavoring to harmonize their labors with the charter than by assailing it. The Greater New York charter is an excellent piece of work, and in those particulars wherein it falls short the Legislature can be relied upon to supply the deficiencies, to enlarge the powers, or to more clearly define the duties of employees under it, as the exigency for such changes appears from time to time.

I do not know whether Mr. Holahan is aware of it, but until the Legislature of 1897 adopted the present Greater New York charter this city didn't have any charter at all. Its affairs were directed under separate chapters, forming a part of the Consolidated act, so-called, an antiquated method, which has now, happily, been done away with by the adoption of a clear, comprehensive, and harmonious charter for the greatest city in the United States, which had been for some time without one. I think that on reflection Mr. Holahan will determine that the repair of dilapidated lamp-posts is not the chief or most important function of a municipality. And how many dismembered lamp-posts is not the chief or ras the result of the assaults of censorious but belatted atatesmen!

NEW YORK, Feb. 3. A. MITCHELL

THE THEATRE HAT. Its Bold Bevival-A New Method for Dealing

with It. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: Last year it did seem for a time as though the theatre hat nulsance was abating, but this year it is slowly but surely

It is an outrage that theatrical managers are permitted to seil seats presumably upon the understand-ing that a view of the performance is included with the seat, and then permit a feathered hat or equally aggravating bonnet with bobbing algrettes to cut off such view and ruin an evening's pleasure.

The fault is entirely with the manag ment of the contract that women must remove their hats and benu-ty. Furnish a place to check them if desired and then if a woman refuses to remove her head pleze she can be ejected from the theatre as a disorderly character, the same as a man would be if he persisted in any act contrary to the rules of the house. An exception might be made for women who

wear wigs with the bats fastened to them.

There is no other course. Women are absolutely without consideration, thought or care for the pleas selves or the unfortunate man in whom they may be temporarily interested. The lack of this quality, together with a false idea

of what renders them attractive, and their insanc desire to excite the envy of other women, any hope of achieving a reform through their slieged better nature an "iridescent dream." LONG SUPPERING. NEW YORK, Feb. 2.

A Sportsman's View of the "Sportsm

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The "National sportsmen's Exposition" has run its twelve-day ourse, and it appears to me an auspicion for a halt to be called against a repetition of any similar infliction upon an innecept public.

attributed to the fact that sportsmen were "on to its curves," and avoided it in large crowds. It, how ever, afforded an opportunity to a few favored concerns for the display and disposal of their wares. The sporting fraternity of New York includes some 60,000 anglers, men who love to go a fishing, and who do so at every opportunity, while the number of anglers dispersed throughout the United States is countries, and this vast throng of sportsmen could have found scarcely a rod, reel, fly cred, takis case, wading boot, or any distinctive emblem of their craft at the recent alleged "Sportsmen's Show." Even that monumental injustry, the "dollar spit bamboo rod," so much in evidence last year, was not to be seen.

Instead came the self-playing plane, without which, as a metter of course, no sportsman's camp is complete. The few beautiful live game birds and fish seen last year were also absent, and, instead, the few visitors were permitted to purchase ruber roller skates, another indispensable feature of every woodland camp. Athlete sports received but scanty attention, in marked courrast to previous displays of this nature, and the gentleman athlete, seeking some emblem of his pastine, would search in vain for an Indian club or a dumb bell. Lovers of baseball, golf, archery, football, tenuls, lowing, or any other fashon-she sport could find nothing indicative of these pastimes.

A few powder and shot makers and three or four so at every opportunity, while the number of angler

ion-bie sport could find nothing indicative of the pastings.

A few powder and shot makers and three or four gin dealers "ruled the roast," and they seemingly controlled the entire "shooting match."

Trophies of sport, game fishes and animals, rowboats, canoes, camping outlits, and similar perquisites of a sportsman's outlits, and similar perquisites of a sportsman's outlits, and similar perquisites of a sportsman's outling were distinguished by their absence, while instead came a display of ismostry soop, horsestice peds, reclining only, is sking machines, paper wests, eyegisases, and \$1 hand sewed shoes, all, no doubt, very essential in a sportsman's outling outlit.

outing outni.
I rise up to appeal for a half upon any similar inflic-NEW YORK, Jan. 21.

Not a Republican Bollar.

To the Editor of The Sus-Sir: Mr. Balley Texas, leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, said in his speech on the Teller silver resolution, as reported in THE SER of Feb. 1, that if the silver dollar was good enough for the workingman, who produced the wealth of the country, it was good enough for the idlers: If it was good enough for the poor, it was good enough for the

No good Republican (not a silver man) has ever workingman or good enough for the poor man. It has been and is the contention of the Republicans that a sliver dollar is not good enough for the work that a silver dollar is not good enough for the workingman or for the poor man. Republicans have contended always that the workingman and the poor
man needed and ought to have just as good a dollar
as anybody else. It is the silver Republicans and silver bennerats who are trying to pain off upon the
workingman and the moor man a dollar worth now
but little more than 40 cents; and the strange thing
about it is that so many workingmen cannot see that
if they wote for free silver, they vote to reduce their
wages more than one-half, at the present price of
silver.

NEW TORE, Feb. 1, 1898. NEW YORK, Feb. 1, 1898.

HOW OSTRICH EGGS ARE HATCHED. The Hen Puts Them in a Hole and Covers it All Aight-The Beester Has the Day Job.

From the St. Louis Globe Democrat. "There is money in raising ostriches, and this fact has been demonstrated by the owners of an ostrich farm in Arizona," remarked Col. W. s. Hadley of Phoenix, Ariz. "There are now about 100 ostriches on this farm, and all the birds are doing well. The farm was first started as an experiment, but it has proved to be a fairly good business venture. The estrich has

as an experiment, but it has proved to be a fairly good business venture. The estrich has many peculiar habits, and it took some time for the managers of the farm to learn how to handle these Sahara Desert birds. For instance, the female makes a nest by scratching a hole in the ground large enough to hold a bushel basker. She lays twenty eggs before she commonces to sit. Each egg is left just outside the nest until the twenty eggs circle the hole in the ground. Then the female kicks all the eggs into the hole with one foot. She sits at night, and the male sits on the heat in the day time, thus taking turn about until the young estriches are hatches.

"A young estriches are hatches.
"A young estriches are hatches.
"A young estriches are hatches.
"A young estriches are hatches.
"A young estrich must be one year old before it can be 'picked. An estrich has scarcely any feathers on its neck and breast, and is, therefore, an ungainly looking bird. The long feathers, known in the trade as estrich plumes, are plucked from the wings. These plumes are there cleaned and stosmed, and when fully prepared for the milinery market, bring from \$7 to \$9 apiece. An old estrich is worth from \$75 to \$100, and a young one is worth

THE HANDKERCHIEFS WE USE

\$98,500,000 Single Ones Consumed in the Trade Every Year in This Country. From the Washington Star.

"Very few people outside the trade," said a leading wholesale dealer in handkerchiefs in New York to a Star reporter recently, "are aware that the consumption of handkerchiefs throughout the United States amounts to about 75,000 dozen daily. This means 27,375,000 dozen yearly, or 328,500,000 single handkerchiefs. To satisfy this enormous demand there are always kept in stock in this city at least 350.

chiefs. To satisfy this enormous demand there are always kept in stock in this city at least 350, 000,000 handkerchiefs. It would be extremely difficult to say what such a supply of goods is worth in the aggregate, as handkerchiefs sell at wholesale at anywhere from 30 cents to \$40 per dozen, according to quality and finish. But the figures which I have given you are not exaggerated, and they throw a strong light on the gigantic dimensions of an important branch of the dry goods business.

"A comparatively small number of handkerchiefs are manufactured in this country, and those that are made here are mostly of the cotton and inferior silk variety. The finest slik goods are imported principally from Japan, which country sends us annually between 17,000,000 and 18,000,000 'Japanese pources. The best cambric article comes from France and Belgium, and linen handkerchiefs come from the north of Ireland and also from St. Galla, Switzerland. Japanese slik hankerchiefs are worth from \$3 to \$40 per dozen, while the imported cambries from Brussels sell for from \$5 to \$7 a dozen, and the cotton product manufactured in Pennsylvania and New Jersey may be had for 30 cents per dozen.

"The capital invested in this business is immense. It may possibly amount to \$100,000,000,000, but, owing to the fact that the trade is distributed, nothing like accurate figures can be given. There are six or seven firms in the dry goods district which deal exclusively in handkerchiefs. But only two of these houses hands the domestic article extensively. Most of the large American factories are located outside of the city, but New York, as in several other branches of the dry goods business, is the great distributing centre for the trade."

STAR WORSHIPPERS.

An Unkown Religion Found in Mesopotamis

From the Christian Intelligences Our Arabian missionary, the Rev. Samuel M. Zwemer, before the American Society of Com parative Religious, last week gave an interesting account of a curious religion he encountered in a trip to the lower Euphrates and Tigris. He

said of this peculiar sect: "These strange people, whom we know as the Star Worshippers, Sabeans, Nasoreans, or St. Star Worshippers, Sabeans, Nasoreans, or St. John Christians, designate themselves the Mandeans, and although they number only a few thousand, remain entirely distinct from the Jows, Moslems, and Christians, among whom they have dwelt for conturies. Their origin is lost in obscurity, and their number is rapidly diminishing. Their religion is compounded of Christian, heathen, and Jewish elements; the language they speak is entirely different from that of their neighbors. They are a moral, peaceful, and industrious people. They believe that the stars embody the good of the universe, and the planets the evil. Unlike the Parsees, they do not worship the sun and the moon. I found that their knowledge of astronomy was thorough in many respects."

many respects.

He further said that their moral code is that of the Old Tostament in every particular, and that he found them an easily approachable people, though it required a long acquaintance before they allowed their literature to be seen.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

ure and arresting all the directors for fraud.

Transpiven an ratiroad employees have been notifled by the Hungarian Government that unless they Magyarize their names they will be discharged. Son Marino, the bittle republic in the Appenin has proved that it is up to date by having a bank fall-

Costs for the appeal in Earl Russell's divorce case ave been apportioned by the Court. They amount to \$18,500 for the two sides, of course not counting counsel fees. Fuinne on Loc-pronounced "fawn ye in lay" and meaning the "Dawn of Day"-is the title of a new

weekly printed in Irish that appears at Ath Clinib, the original name of Dublin. Pschorr, the brewer, has offered a million marks to the city of Munich on condition that the bust of his grandfather, the founder of the Pachorr brau bush ness, be placed in the Hall of Glory of the Bavaria

nonument. Liverpool has just found it impossible to float a loan for £1,500,000, as the Stock Exchange refused to list it. This is due to sharp practice on the part of the corporation with the brokers when it issued a

Osiris has lost his divinity and turns out to have Leen a mere mortal, M. Amelineau, the French Egyptologist, announces that he has discovered his grave at Abydos. Mariette Bey hunted for the tomb without success for nineteen years.

Lake Rikwa, or Leopold, between Lakes Tangan-

discovered, forty years ago, was 180 miles long by thirty broad, is reported by recent travellers to have closed up completely. The bed of the lage is now a plain covered with thick woods. "Love me," "Make me merry," "Warm me up."

and "You don't expect it" have been registered by the German Patent Office as trademarks for alcoholle drinks. "Salus stomachi" is accepted only because it is Latin, while "One before breaking off" and "The very last" are rejected as being expres sions in too common use. A yellow light has been obtained with incandescent

alters the burners so that the gas is supplied at a pressure of three and a half atmospheres. A single et of ordinary size then emits a light of more than 1,000 candle power, by which fine print may be read at a distance of 150 feet from the light. William Bonny, the army medical steward who are companied Stanley in his expedition for the relief of Emin Pashs, is dying of consumption in a London

poorhouse. Honny was left with the rear guard un-der Major Barttelot, being the only white man left after the latter's death, and remained for a year and haif in camp while the rear guard starved. Paris's Society for the Prevention of Crueity to Animals has received a legacy of 3,000,000 france

from Mmc. Chassegros, who was a noted demonstrate dains under the second empire. The conditions at tached are that precautions shall be taken to prevent the ill treatment of horses, and an effort made to improve the condition of the public pounds. Russia is bastening the building of the railroad ce tween Mery and the milliary post of Kushk on the Afghan frontier, which will then be in direct con-

nunication with the Caspian and European Russia. The line is called the Murghab branch; it is 190 miles oug, will cost 8,700,000 rubles, and will be ready within three years. The Samarkand-Andijan with branches to Tashkend and Marghilan, will to opened this year. Venice has asserted the right of ownership over the

famous pigeous of St. Mark. Some enterprising street boys who had made a business of killing the birds when brought up in court pleaded that the pigeons had no legal owners, as they were fed by the public on the Piazza San Marco. The city authorities naintained that the pigeons were the wards of the old republic and therefore of the present municipals ty, a view that was adopted by the court.